

Indiana Trails Advisory Board

June 20, 2013 - 3:00 PM

Indiana Government Center South – Foyer 2 West
402 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis, IN 46204

Meeting Minutes

Board Members Present:

Neil McCammack - All Terrain Vehicles
Nancy Tibbett – Bicyclists
Yvette Rollins – Equestrians
Ryan Sweany - Four Wheel Drive Users
Timothy Calahan – Hikers
Roy Garrett – Off-Road Motorcyclists (proxy)
Jeff Fetterer - Mountain Bike Users
Melody Jones - Parks & Rec. Agencies
Pat Martin – Pedestrians
Len Neisler - Snowmobilers
Melisa Culbertson – Trail Support Groups

DNR Staff:

Dale Brier
Bob Bronson
Cameron Clark
David Cox
Leah Kopp

Guests:

Karen Bohn – Greenways Foundation
Jay Jackson - ABATE

Welcome

Chairwoman Yvette Rollins welcomed everyone. She thanked Nancy Tibbett for hosting the meeting and providing refreshments.

Introductions

Everyone introduced themselves.

Review and Approval of March 2013 Minutes

Len Neisler moved to approve the minutes. Pat Martin seconded. Motion carried.

Department Report

David Cox thanked Nancy Tibbett (Bicycle Indiana) for hosting the meeting and arranging the Cultural Trail tour.

The Indiana Parks and Recreation Association will conduct its annual trails workshop in Columbus on October 22.

New legislation passed the General Assembly which will improve the way OHV registration is completed. Beginning January 1, registration may be done at any BMV branch. The process to implement this new law has started although details are still being worked out. Len Neisler asked if the BMV will print the registration stickers at the time of registration. Dale Brier answered by saying the stickers will still be sent through the mail. Neil McCammack asked if a title would be required for BMV registration because that would not work for some users. Dale said a title was required already for vehicles bought or sold after a certain date. Roy

Garrett said the date was 2003. Current law requires a title or bill of sale. Jay Jackson said another law states they must be titled. Dale explained there was a five year window after 2003 where either would work. The past five years has required titling. David said after details are solidified, there will be a marketing effort to get the word out across the state. Ryan Sweany asked if registrations could still be done at Redbird. Dale said the need to register at Redbird would be greatly diminished if people can register at any BMV so this is a detail still being discussed whether this will continue.

David introduced newly appointed DNR Director Cameron Clark to the board. He previously was the DNR Chief Legal Counsel. Dir. Clark thanked the board for the opportunity to introduce himself. He welcomed any questions the board wanted to ask him. Chairwoman Yvette Rollins welcomed him on behalf of TAB. She asked everyone to introduce themselves to Dir. Clark and mention the user group they represent. Yvette expressed appreciation for the camaraderie shown between board members and their respective user groups. She explained the importance of RTP funding for Indiana's trails. Director Clark said he was pleased with the diverse representation of the user groups. He understands how far reaching the board's influence extends with both motorized and non-motorized users. The director said he wants to get more done at Interlake and sees the property's potential. He stated he's not ignoring other properties but it's a property where he's been quite involved. Dir. Clark said he is thankful for what the board is doing.

Old Business

Chairwoman Yvette Rollins asked the new members who started their terms in 2013 to talk a little about themselves. She wanted to get to know them better since she was not at the March meeting. New members Neil McCammack and Ryan Sweany gave brief biographies.

New Business

Yvette moved the RTP discussion up on the agenda to accommodate Bob Bronson's schedule.

RTP Grants – Bob reported 16 RTP applications were received with one being taken out of consideration. Funds must be distributed with 30% motorized, 30%, non-motorized, and 40% discretionary. Of the discretionary funds, a maximum of 5% can be used for education, a maximum of 7% can be used for administration, and the other can be used for either motorized or non-motorized projects. The Indiana allotment is approximately \$1.2 million. There were two projects with under-runs so that money comes back for re-allotment. The DNR has asked for the federal obligation limitation to be waived which it has done in the past. Bob reminded the board that in December it approved funding for Interlake which comes from the 2013 grants. It was recommended to allocate \$50,000 for Knobstone Trail maintenance. Also, based on the RTP application scoring process, the recommendation was made to award \$150,000 each to the following projects: Sweetser Switch Trail Phase 3, Blackford Greenway, Columbus People Trail, and the Good Start Trail. The remaining monies (approximately \$82,000) were recommended for the Brincka Cross Garden Trail.

Tim Calahan asked if approval had to be of the entire set of recommended projects or if the board had a “line item veto” option. Bob replied it was being proposed as a complete list. He said the board exists for the state to receive RTP monies and is given the opportunity to give its approval on projects. After TAB votes, the ultimate decision to whom gets the awards rests with Director Clark. Tim is concerned that monies are being spent for Knobstone Trail maintenance with this being the second request for KT maintenance funds. He questions why groups aren’t leveraged to help more with maintenance needed on the trail. Bob explained that while maintenance money is allowed, Indiana doesn’t allow maintenance funds to go to local applicants. Only certain state owned places such as the KT and the motorized properties receive maintenance monies. The reason the maintenance money is allowed for the state is because of financial concerns. Tim believes the funds could go further with outside groups helping on the KT. Dale Brier said monies are helping fund two part time KT employees who are making sure the trail stays open and clear of debris. It helps with daily operations. These funds are not used for re-routes. Dale said without the \$50,000, we would have to close the KT. The DNR is better utilizing groups such as the Hoosier Hikers Council. Melody Jones asked where the match comes from for state projects like the KT. Dale answered that it comes from state operational monies. Yvette said she doesn’t like to see RTP funds spent on staff. Bob explained that historically we have not taken maintenance money but times have changed due to financial constraints. Tim is willing to support the funding now. Some state legislators have an interest in starting a trail maintenance fund to support various trails across the state. There was more discussion on the success of trails in Indiana. Nancy Tibbett is pleased connectivity is important for RTP awards. She asked if projects that don’t receive funding can be re-submitted the following year. Bob said projects can be submitted again. Tim Calahan moved to approve the recommendations as presented. Nancy Tibbett seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Hoosier Outdoor Experience – David encouraged user groups to use this event to showcase their activities to the public. Yvette said this is an opportunity to reach thousands of inner city kids. Len Neisler suggested people promote it through Facebook and other personal media. Roy Garrett asked when a meeting will be held about HOE. Yvette said Greg Beilfuss will be scheduling one soon. Neil McCammack expressed concern that UTV rides were in jeopardy. Len suggested that Schnelker Marine be contacted about UTV rides. The event will take place September 21-22, 2013. Director Clark thanked everyone for their support of HOE and for welcoming him to the meeting.

2013 Trails Conference Planning – Yvette reported about the site visit to Lawrence County Recreation Park. The property is approximately 500 acres with multiple hook-ups for camping. Hotels were also considered in the area with Bedford being the closest choice for lodging. She talked with Clark Collins of the Blue Ribbon Coalition about attending the conference. He seems interested in speaking and is supportive of all types of trails. The trail building possibilities are numerous on the LCRP property. Several LCRP areas were looked at for hands on learning options for the workshop. Yvette said the committees need to begin

working. The conference limit is 100 people. Melody is helping with registrations and online set up through IPRA. Yvette expressed registration fees need to be set immediately. She encouraged TAB to send out the Save-the Date notice to user groups. The conference is November 8-10, 2013 to accommodate volunteers' work schedules.

Yvette reminded TAB the budget limit is \$10,000. She asked the board for input on a \$100/person registration fee. There was consensus that \$100/person is reasonable for three days. Neil said attendees would have a \$300-\$400 weekend with the fee, hotel, and transportation costs. Jay Jackson said camping costs may be waived but LCRP has not discussed that officially yet. Yvette said sponsorships are welcome. David said he heard High-Lift Jack of Bloomfield might be a possible contact for a lunch sponsorship. In-kind contributions are encouraged. Melody asked how reimbursements will work. David said it's a reimbursement through IPRA. Neil suggested an early bird special. TAB decided the \$100/person is the early bird with later registrations being \$125/person. Pat Martin moved that TAB members and up to 10 DNR employees attend at no cost. Len Neisler seconded. Motion carried.

Yvette said only two high profile speakers will be featured. David said the DNR can facilitate committee conference calls. He just needs the dates and times of the calls to get it set up. Len felt any promotional literature needs to include conference details since this is the first time for this conference. Yvette reminded TAB that this is a hands-on workshop. Materials will be taken to the property ahead of time. Melody asked if rain would affect the conference. Yvette replied it would not. David said LCRP has a deep stage which is covered and there are rooms off the stage.

Jeff Fetterer asked if the conference could include a chainsaw certification. Several were interested in considering this as a separate track since certifications are 2-3 day training classes. Nancy Tibbett said maybe this would help drive demand. Yvette said we need to remain focused on trail building and maintenance. Melody suggested reaching out to chainsaw or other equipment businesses for sponsorships. This is a good opportunity to network among the various user groups. Len asked if there would be separate trails built for motorized and non-motorized. Yvette answered there would be separate trail projects. Jay Jackson asked if the park needed to be closed to outside riders for the conference. TAB felt closure was not necessary.

Trail Runners – Pat Martin asked what the status was of the trail runner's position. David said that was settled by former DNR Director Carter who said there would be no additional positions added to TAB.

RTP Updates/Past Projects - David reported the list of past and current projects is always available. He can send them via email for anyone wanting to review them.

Mid America Trails & Greenways Conference - A hand-out was given to TAB members to promote the MATAG conference in Matteson, Illinois (Chicago area). Dale Brier is the Indiana representative for this eight state event.

User Group Reports

Mountain Biker Users – Jeff Fetterer reported work is progressing at Southwestway Park. Over 200 women attended a women's mountain bike clinic at Brown County SP. Also, Indiana hosted the Midwest Mountain Bike Clinic.

Off-Road Motorcyclists – Roy Garrett reported they have been to Redbird three times this year working as part of the Adopt-A-Trail. D.I.R.T. adopted two trails but works on five.

Parks and Recreation Agencies – Melody Jones reported the Monon Trail is being extended from SR 32 to 216th Street. The trail will connect to the new Grand Sports Park. A bicycle track will be added to the trail for safety. Westfield is constructing another 1.5 miles of the Midland Trace.

Pedestrians – Pat Martin reported a new recreation area called Wabashiki was recently dedicated by Governor Pence. Terre Haute is continuing its trails along the Wabash River.

Snowmobilers – Len Neisler reported the snowmobile season was dismal in Indiana but was great in many other areas. The biggest issue for snowmobilers is a federal injunction which closes all national forests to OHV uses. Jeff Fetterer added that rulings also affect mountain bike users because some of these groups are against various users. Len said judges don't understand the issues they are deciding. He said people need to reach out to their legislators.

Announcements

Hoosier Outdoor Experience – September 21-22, 2013

Mid America Trails and Greenways Conference – October 27-30, 2013 (Chicago)

Trails for All Conference – November 8-10, 2013 (Lawrence Co. Rec. Park)

Future Meeting Dates

September 5 – Dan Plath will be hosting the meeting in NW Indiana

Adjournment

Tim Calahan moved for adjournment. Roy Garrett seconded. Motion carried.